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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 426

February 6, 1942



SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC RECOMMENDATIONS OF RIO CONFERENCE: Resolution II, full mobilization of Americas to assure adequate supply of strategic materials in shortest possible time; III, measures to maintain internal economies of American countries; IV, immediate mobilization of transportation facilities, including completion of Pan American Highway; V, immediate severance of commercial and financial relations with Axis nations; VII, development of inter-American commercial interchange; VIII, continued cooperation with the Inter-American Development Commission and its national commissions; IX, development of basic production of each American republic, avoiding so far as possible artificial expansion of production of emergency substitute commodities; X, close consideration to establishment of Inter-American Bank; XI, capital investments by American republics in one another; XIII, complete utilization of economic resources of Americas to raise living standards; XIV, fair commercial treatment of inland republics; XV, calling of inter-American financial conference to consider establishment international stabilization fund; XVI, development of natural resources of each country, including those of subsoil; XXV, convocation of an inter-American technical economic conference to study present and post-war economic problems. (Text of declaration, released Feb. 3 by U.S. State Department)

LATIN AMERICA TO GET FARM MACHINERY AND AUTOMOBILES from U.S., in addition to strategic materials, War Production Board announces. (Export Trade and Shipper, Feb. 2)

U.S. MUST OBTAIN TRADE CONCESSIONS from Latin America, as well as grant them, or U.S. steamship men "are likely to find themselves frustrated after the war in attempting to aid importers and exporters of the U.S. in building up a healthy, mutually beneficial foreign commerce with our sister republics." (Walter S. Mitchell, N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

PLAN TO EXPEDITE DELIVERY OF SUGAR from Cuba and Puerto Rico as three cane refineries in east suspend manufacture. Refiners' committee meeting with Maritime Commission to discuss shipping situation. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce) Inter-relationship of sugar and munitions factor in prospective U.S. sugar shortage, since sugar molasses is major source of ethyl alcohol, used in arms manufacture. Writer points out increase in demand for molasses will be much greater than for edible sugar. Points out that imports of high-test molasses from Cuba were higher in first six months of 1941 than in all of 1940. (Fortune Magazine, quoted in Christian Science Monitor)

COCOA SHORTAGE REMOTE, since U.S. has on hand 300,000 tons, or one year's supply. New supplies, half of which come from Africa and half from Latin America, chiefly Brazil, depend entirely on shipping space, which traders expect to be available soon, pointing to OPA's reduction of ceiling price as possible herald of such development. Candy makers say there might be curtailment in manufacture of five-cent candy bars because of low nutritional value. (N.Y. Times)

4 PERCENT OF U.S. RAYON allocated to Latin America by War Production Board. This will amount to 13,000 pounds a year. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

(over)

PLAN TO INCREASE LATIN AMERICAN RUBBER PRODUCTION launched with departure of 11 U.S. rubber technicians for Latin America to devise ways of encouraging increased tapping of wild trees. Plan, sponsored by Agricultural Division of Office of Inter-American Affairs, is outgrowth of Department of Agriculture's long-term project for development of plantation rubber in Latin America. Heading new project in Washington is C. B. Manifold, on detail from Soil Conservation Service, with which he is assistant chief in charge of technical operations. (United Press in Washington Post, with additional information from Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations) U.S. continuing to receive Far Eastern rubber, Secretary of Commerce Jones tells House Banking and Currency Committee. Says January imports of 76,000 tons actually added 6,000 tons to stockpile. Reports rubber losses in shipping in war have amounted to 1,850 tons. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINA INCREASES PETROLEUM PRODUCTION by 6.8 percent in 1941 over 1940, continuing steady increase which has amounted to 140 percent in last 12 years. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

GARLIC SHIPMENTS FROM ARGENTINA in 1941 nearly nine times those of 1940. (N.Y. Herald Tribune)

600,000 POUNDS OF ARGENTINE CORNED BEEF purchased for U.S. Navy under new contracts, Navy Department officials announce. Contracts placed with U.S. packing firms doing business in Argentina. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

BOLIVIA BUYS STANDARD OIL PROPERTIES, expropriated in 1937, thus ending long dispute. Oil company to receive \$1,500,000 with interest from March, 1937. Report Bolivia to receive \$5,500,000 loan from Export-Import Bank for development of oil industry, with increases as needed. (N.Y. Times and Christian Science Monitor)

CHILE ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT, Juan Antonio Ríos, Popular Front candidate, over Gen. Carlos Ibáñez del Campo, Rightist. (N.Y. Times)

MEXICO READY TO SHIP 'IXTLE' to U.S. as substitute for abaco, normally obtained from Philippines. Mexican Economy Department says 80 carloads, valued at about \$2,000,000, can be exported. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

U.S. SENATE ACCEPTS MEXICAN OFFER of 40 million dollars in settlement of outstanding agrarian and property claims accumulated over period of 59 years. Ratification of treaty coincides with conclusion of visit to Washington of Francisco Javier Gaxiola, Mexican Minister of National Economy, who termed "satisfactory" his negotiations for raw material and machinery priorities for Mexico. (N.Y. Herald Tribune)

TARIFF REDUCTIONS FOR SUGAR, COTTON AND TUNGSTEN from Peru opposed at hearings before Committee on Reciprocity Information on proposed trade agreement between U.S. and Peru. (Representatives of sugar industry say refined sugar entering country in large amounts would leave many workers in domestic refineries unemployed. "The mining industry," says Senator Bunker of Nevada, "fears that any reduction in the tungsten tariff might adversely affect the tungsten price in the West." National Cotton Council representative opposes reduction in present seven-cent tariff as well as any increased importation of Peruvian cotton, which he claims is in direct competition with domestic product.) (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

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END OF N.Y. FOREIGN TRADE ZONE BLOW TO IMPORTERS who estimate annual loss of \$100,000,000 following court order giving U.S. Government possession of 55-acre tract and 4 piers which constituted only free port on U.S. soil. Importers skeptical about other arrangements to handle imports of beef from Argentina and Brazil nuts. Only other free port operating in this hemisphere is in Cuba. There is a free zone in Mexico set up to permit natives of sparsely settled territories to purchase goods from abroad duty free. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

BRITAIN ADDS 192 MORE NAMES TO BLACKLIST, 110 of them in Latin American countries. Brazil heads list with 38 names; Chile, 20; Argentina, 16; Colombia, 9; Venezuela, 7; Costa Rica and Dominican Republic, 5 each; Peru, 4; Uruguay, 3; and Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador, 1 each. (Export Trade and Shipper, Feb. 9)

INTER-AMERICAN AIR-MAIL SERVICE UP 34 PERCENT during fiscal year 1941, according to Postmaster General Frank Walker. This is largest increase in postal history. (Export Trade and Shipper, Feb. 9)

RAYON YARN SHIPMENTS TO LATIN AMERICA delayed as producers await shipment instructions for 4,300,000 pounds of filament yarn which they must send to Latin America during current quarter. Delay is believed due to fact that consular agents in various countries are compiling lists of firms which may be entitled to share in yarn allocation. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

22 PERCENT SURCHARGE ON FREIGHT RATES between U.S. ports and ports in Cuba, Haiti and on east coast of Mexico granted by Maritime Commission to carriers serving those areas. Exempt products include sugar and iron and steel scrap. (Export Trade and Shipper, Feb. 9) Cuban exporters seek annulment of increase, claiming it would prevent sale of their fruit and vegetable products at present price levels in U.S. (Semi-Monthly Digest of Cuban Chamber of Commerce in U.S.)

PLAN TO DEVELOP HAND-SEWING INDUSTRY in Latin America approved by Linens and Domestic Buyers Club. Fund to be raised among manufacturers and distributors to finance investigation into possibility of obtaining from Latin America table linens formerly imported from China. (N.Y. Times)

PEPPER, GINGER, PAPRIKA, NUTMEG FROM LATIN AMERICA expected to make up for foreign losses when present stocks are exhausted. Agriculture and Commerce Departments working with Latin American interests to grow spices which formerly came from Netherlands Indies. (Washington Star)

SUMNER WELLES TO ADDRESS CUBAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE meeting on February 16. Address will deal with "the major aspects of the Rio conference." (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

LATIN AMERICA FAIR ENDS after 3-week run, during which 825,479 persons attended. Macy's official states that store has developed a long-term purchase plan from Latin America and that products will be promoted on a year-round basis. (N.Y. Times)

NATIONAL TOBACCO INSTITUTE FORMED IN ARGENTINA to mould national policy in improving tobacco cultivation, promote its disposal and industrialization, and generally assume responsibility for the progress of this phase of the Republic's agricultural production. (The Review of the River Plate, Jan. 2)

ARGENTINA PROPOSES TO EXTEND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES to towns, villages and hamlets within radius of 35 kilometers from Palermo where main "Obras Sanitarias" installations are situated. Scheme will entail expenditure of \$300,000,000, to be spread over period of 30 years. Reason advanced for undertaking is that public health in Buenos Aires cannot be ensured if elementary sanitary arrangements are lacking in provincial environs of Capital. (The Review of the River Plate, Jan. 2)

ARGENTINA TO EXPORT HOG PRODUCTS TO GREAT BRITAIN under recently concluded meat trade agreement which provides for exportation of 40,000 tons of frozen pork during period ending September 30, 1942. Price agreed upon is approximately 73 centavos per kilo, free on board, in Buenos Aires. (The Review of the River Plate, Jan. 2)

ARGENTINA TO BUY COTTON SACK MACHINERY from United States. Ten million pesos have been allotted to build cotton sack factory which is expected to use more than 20 percent of Argentina's annual cotton crop. Many of the products for which the sacks will be used are materials for export to the U.S., such as tannin and yerba mate. (Export Trade and Shipper, Feb. 9)

ARGENTINE-U.S. INTER-DEPENDENCE cited as reason Argentina will back aims of Rio conference despite official "on-the-fence" attitude, which American foreign traders regard as move to jockey for bargaining position. Argentinians termed "the best horse-traders in Latin America" and "in good horse-trading position now." Dependence on U.S. attested by fact that in 1941 this country replaced Britain as chief supplier of Argentine needs, furnishing 28.7 percent of year's imports. Argentina, on the other hand, is supplying increasing amounts of wool, linseed and other strategic materials to U.S. and in 1941 exported twice as much to the United States as in 1940. (George A. Mooney, N.Y. Times)

ARGENTINE CORN ACREAGE LOWEST IN 10 YEARS, but surplus remains serious. Planted acreage for 1941-42 corn crop officially estimated at 12,602,000 acres, compared with 15,067,000 acres for the 1940-41 plantings. Indications are that carry-over on April 1 will amount to about 318,000,000 bushels. (Dept. of Agriculture Press Release)

SPAIN TO GET WHEAT IN DEAL WITH ARGENTINA. Argentina has agreed to exchange 160,000 tons of wheat for an approximate 15,000,000-peso Spanish investment in Argentine Electricity Company bonds. General Franco's representatives have vehemently denied that any food is being passed on to France. (Christian Science Monitor)

COTTON OIL IMPORTS FROM BRAZIL HEAVY. Import shipment totalling 4,000 tons is largest lot of cottonseed oil imported in many years. It is felt that this oil might be put in store to await rumored lifting of import duties of foreign oils and seed. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

BRAZIL ENDS YEAR WITH FAVORABLE TRADE BALANCE of nearly \$65,000,000, whereas last year the reverse was true. Brazil exported 6,729,401 contos in 1941 and in 1940 only 4,960,538. Imports were 5,514,417 in 1941 and 4,964,149 in 1940. The United States purchased 56.94 percent of Brazil's total exports and sold 60.30 percent of her total imports. (N.Y. Times)

CUBA PROHIBITS EXPORTATION AND RE-EXPORTATION OF QUININE and quinine salts, cinchona bark, sulfanilamides, and products known as "plasmoquina" and "atebrina." Action taken as a public health measure to insure supplies for domestic consumption. (Cuban Chamber of Commerce Digest)

CUBAN PESO RISES TO \$1.01-1/2, highest level in several years. United States dollar quoted at 7/8 percent discount in Havana. Grinding of sugar crop, largest in many year, is calling for large amounts of bills of small denomination and fractional money to pay for labor, supplies and other expenses with result that there is an insufficient supply of currency in the island. (N.Y. Times)

MEXICO ABLE TO INCREASE OIL PRODUCTION 50 PERCENT according to Efrain Buenrostro, general manager of Petroleos Mexicanos. He believes present production of 200,000 barrels a day can be raised to 300,000 barrels daily, the increase coming from wells being drilled in Veracruz and Tabasco. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

TOURISTS MAY BUY TIRES IN MEXICO--but they have to take their old ones back to the border to prove they really needed new ones. The new tires may enter the United States duty-free since they are included under the law allowing a tourist to import \$100 worth of goods without paying duty. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

NICARAGUA CONSIDERS DIMINISHED CONTROL OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE because of favorable conditions of exchange, strength of cordoba in the free or street market and favorable prices for exportable products. (N.Y. Times)

PERU INCREASES FLAX CROPS from an experimental 100 acres three years ago to an acreage of 35,000 for the crop now being prepared for market. A survey of the new Peruvian flax industry has been brought back to the Department of Agriculture by Dr. B. B. Robinson of BPI, who reports that flax is responding exceedingly well to Peruvian soil. (N.Y. Times)

IMPORTATION OF PERU'S COTTON URGED by Monroe Douglas Robinson, American representative for the Peruvian American Association of Lima, who states that loss of Japanese purchases is threatening Peru's economy. Mr. Robinson asserted that Peru could be a weak link in our own defense "if her economy doesn't get some definite support." (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 428

February 20, 1942

GUAYULE BILL VETOED by President Roosevelt because it applies only to plantings in the United States. In message to Senate, President declares that "in the establishment of sources of crude rubber for emergency and defense uses it is vital that all potential rubber-producing areas in the Western Hemisphere be developed, regardless of whether within or without the United States." In limiting guayule cultivation to this country, Mr. Roosevelt says the bill will contradict the spirit of resolution adopted at Rio and "seriously handicap our joint war effort." Senator Downey has introduced a new bill embracing the President's ideas. (Washington Post)

IMPORTERS OPPOSE TRADE ZONE CLOSURE. Representative Emanuel Celler, who sponsored Foreign Trade Zone Act of 1934, under which New York foreign trade zone operated, asserts that closing ordered by War Department will place Sumner Welles in peculiar position inasmuch as he had assured South American republics that zone would be kept open and had urged the republics to undertake similar zones. He predicts particular vehemence from Argentina which has been using the zone's facilities in meeting obligations on beef orders from various countries. Committee formed to discuss problem with Mayor La Guardia, who was formerly one of the zone's champions. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, created at Havana conference to promote economic resources of Western Hemisphere, holds first meeting in Washington since complete organization of national commissions. Coordinating activities of national groups will be directed by J. Rafael Oreamuno, vice chairman of Commission. Attending the meeting were members of the Brazilian Financial Mission, including Valentim Boucas, champion of development of Amazon Basin; João Daudt de Oliveira, President of Brazil's Industrial Commission; and Dr. José Garibaldi Dantas, president of the São Paulo Cotton Exchange. Practical means of increasing production of rubber, vegetable oils, and metals discussed. (The American News Letter, Feb. 17)

CURTAILMENT OF GENERAL EXPORT LICENSES ANNOUNCED by Office of Export Control, effective February 20. Materials excluded from general license ranges, which will require individual licenses to be shipped to South America, include agricultural implements, electrical machinery and apparatus, iron and steel manufactures and other similar metallic commodities (N.Y. Journal of Commerce) Also announced, effective February 20, is the revocation of general licenses authorizing exportation to all destinations except Canada, Northern Ireland, Great Britain, Newfoundland, Greenland and Iceland of the following commodities: cocoa beans, cocoa powder and chocolate. (Export Trade and Shipper, Feb. 16)

CONVOYS TO LATIN AMERICA urged by Senator Chavez who cautions that production and transportation of Latin American "raw materials to prosecute this war" is vital since the fall of Singapore. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

(Over)

AMERICAS URGED TO FREEZE AUTO, TRUCK, TIRE STOCKS. Request, made by State Department in communication to other American governments, is in line with Rio conclusion that people of Latin America would receive same treatment as those of the United States. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

EDIBLE OIL TRADE EXPECTS HEAVIER IMPORTS from South America. Four thousand tons of Brazilian cottonseed oil reported at Port of New York. Recently arrived cargoes include 296 tons of refined rapeseed oil, and 275 drums of oiticica oil. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

AMAZON VALLEY DEVELOPMENT PLAN confirmed by Sumner Welles. Plans affecting area of over 2,600,000 square miles in the heart of Brazil contemplate sending a large group of experts and technicians to Brazil to study the possibility for development of rubber, vegetable oil, fibers and plants of medicinal value. Tropical disease experts will undertake to minimize malaria dangers for benefit of laborers to be recruited in coastal regions of Brazil. (Washington Post, Carlos C. Nagel)

DELAY IN BRAZILIAN RUBBER PRODUCTION seen in Rio de Janeiro. Experts quoted as estimating it will take until 1945 for Brazil to produce annually the equivalent of United States rubber needs for one month. Long-range forecast predicts maximum output in 1943 of 30,000 tons, compared with 19,000 tons in 1941. (Richard Dyer, Washington Post)

COLOMBIA FACES GROWING ECONOMIC CRISIS, marked by unsteadiness in prices and tendency toward inflation, says writer from Bogotá. Factors seen as shortage of materials normally imported, sympathetic rise in prices of domestic articles and uncertainty as to future imports of strategic materials. Colombians tend to blame U.S. priorities officials, but writer points out Colombian government has never given Washington estimates of materials needed. (Jean A. Crawford, Washington Post)

CUBA ENCOURAGES FOOD PRODUCTION through decree-law providing that farm operators having more than 5 caballerías (about 165 acres) must devote part of their land to rice, corn, peanuts, beans and other food crops except sugar cane. Cattlemen may raise hogs instead of growing food crops. Law also provides that President may, at his discretion, require use of corn flour and yuca flour in production of bread. (Official Gazette, Havana, Feb. 5)

MEXICO FACES SEVERE DEPRESSION unless raw materials and machinery reach her farms and factories. Rayon factories may have to close soon; and it is likely that American automobile restrictions may close Ford and General Motor assembly plants. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

GEORGE MESSERSMITH ASSUMES MEXICAN POST. New Ambassador declares that Mexico's part at the Rio conference "constituted one of the finest pages in her history." He paid special tribute to Foreign Minister Ezequiel Padilla. (Christian Science Monitor)

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CONVOY SYSTEM TO PROTECT HEMISPHERIC COMMERCE to be considered soon by Hemisphere Defense Board, Under Secretary of State Welles announces. (Washington Post) U-boats sink two Brazilian ships: Olinda, bound for New York with cargo of cocoa and castor beans; and Buarque, carrying \$120,000 worth of Venezuelan coffee, cocoa and barley. Increasing menace causes maritime underwriters to announce further increases in war-risk insurance rates. Rear Admiral Land, head of Maritime Commission, says U.S. will answer sinkings with speed-up in production of stout, easily-built cargo vessels known as "ugly ducklings." (N.Y. Herald Tribune)

INTER-AMERICAN COFFEE BOARD approves 5 percent increase in coffee quotas. Increased consumption of coffee, coupled with increased buying by armed forces, reason for increased quotas. Board says consideration may be given proposal to allow Latin American producers to send 50 percent of next year's quota to U.S. to be held in bond. (N.Y. Times)

MORGENTHAU ASKS FOR "HEMISPHERE DOLLAR" and stresses need for a Bank of North and South America, which he feels are excellent matters to be considered at forthcoming conference of Finance Ministers in Rio. (N.Y. Times)

FOREIGN TRADE ZONE TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE, although War Department is taking over piers and warehouses. Announcement of Foreign Trade Zones Board insures carrying on of "a substantial portion" of activities of zone. (N.Y. Times)

TIRES RATIONED IN TWO COUNTRIES. Colombia establishes license control of tire sales and Guatemala decrees sale of automobiles, trucks and tires subject to government regulation to conserve supply and prevent unscrupulous profiteering. (N.Y. Times)

EXPORTERS ASK PRICE CEILING ADJUSTMENTS to allow for export costs which must be advanced to meet special requirements of certain Latin American nations. Board of Economic Warfare informed that important shipments to Latin America are held up pending decision. (N.Y. Times)

MORE EXPORTS TO LATIN AMERICA predicted by Eugene F. Sitterly, president of Importers Guide. Asserting that "we have been posing as the industrial storehouse of Latin America, and at the same time creating priority jungles which served only to harass our Latin American customers," Mr. Sitterly states that this situation is changing and "it will not be long before we see manufacturing allocations that are mandatory for export to Latin America." (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

HANDLING LATIN AMERICAN SURPLUSES that cannot be moved is almost as important as interchange of strategic materials, according to Leslie A. Wheeler, Director of Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, in address at Sixth National Farm Institute. (U.S.D.A. Press Release)

U.S. NEEDS LATIN AMERICAN RUBBER SOURCES, whatever may occur in war or in synthetic rubber development, says Dr. E. W. Brandes, in charge of rubber investigations for Bureau of Plant Industry, at meeting of U.S. Chapter, American Society of Agricultural Sciences. Says that even if Far East again becomes available as source of rubber we will need Latin American rubber to take care of our increased needs and to prevent repetition of present emergency. Sees eventual merging of plantation project with emergency program recently undertaken for increased production of rubber from wild trees in Latin America.

PAN AMERICAN UNION WINS MARCONI AWARD in recognition of contribution to development of better relations among American Republics through medium of wireless communications. (Washington Post)

\$750,000,000 A YEAR FOR WAR MATERIALS to be spent in Latin America, which will receive same treatment as U.S. on civilian supplies, State Department announces. (PM)

ARGENTINE WINES UP DUE TO WAR, according to report issued by Wine Regulating Board in Argentina. Wholesale market price of wine has more than trebled since inception of board 7 years ago. Argentina has developed sizeable export trade in vermouth to U.S., having shipped over \$1,000,000 worth in first 11 months last year, as compared with \$140,000 for corresponding period in '40. Other shipments to U.S. in first 11 months last year included champagne valued at \$79,000 and wines worth \$23,000. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

BRAZIL TO BUILD U.S.-DESIGNED PLANE ENGINES in first plant of its type in South America under agreement signed between Brazilian government and Wright Aeronautical Corporation. New engine factory, known as Fabrica Nacional de Motores, and located 20 miles from Rio, will be in production by August, building Wright Whirlwind engines of 235 to 450 horsepower exclusively. Company plans to construct model village for about 500 workmen, patterned after design worked out by housing experts in Washington. (N.Y. Herald Tribune)

AGREEMENTS BETWEEN BRAZIL AND U.S. assuring increased movement of vital supplies to Brazil will be signed before Saturday, according to Brazilian Finance Minister Arthur de Souza Costa who has been in the States on a special finance mission. Agreements include formation of "Amazon Basin development," through which Brazil will increase its production of rubber, tropical oils and drugs. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

385 TONS OF COTTONSEED OIL reported received from Brazil over past week-end. Oil imports from South America expected to be heavier than last year, but they will not be large enough to make up for loss of Pacific sources. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

CUBAN '42 SUGAR CROP FIXED AT 3,600,000 LONG TONS. Entire production has already been sold to U.S. with exception of 200,000 tons for local consumption and 65,000 tons for markets other than U.S. One-third of crop will be produced in form of molasses, required by U.S. in war industry. (N.Y. Times)

CUBA CELEBRATES GRITO DE BAIRE (last war for independence in 1895) with suspension of all commercial and industrial operations with the exception of the sugar mills which continued grinding. (N.Y. Times)

CUBA FREIGHT RATE INCREASE IMMINENT, according to reports of sugar interests. Increase is understood to be 7¢ per hundred pounds. Proposed rates considered justified since higher ship stores and fuel costs and larger bonuses to crews have added to costs of operations. Report announcement of higher freight being held up until Government decides upon whom increased cost will fall. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

DUTY OF YEAST FOR PRODUCTION OF HIGH-TEST MOLASSES in Dominican Republic reduced to one-half of one percent ad valorem. Decree promulgated because recent increase in production of invert molasses will permit sugar mills to grind greater number of tons of cane than that to which they must bind themselves in accordance with sugar quota for free market assigned Dominican Republic. (Report of U.S. Legation, Ciudad Trujillo)

GUATEMALA URGES CUT IN U.S. SUGAR TARIFF. Present quota for export to U.S. of 350,000 pounds could be increased 60 times if present tariffs were reduced to make such action pay, according to announcement of Guatemalan sugar consortium. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

MIXTURE OF FLOURS IN MAKING BREAD REGULATED IN HAITI. New percentage authorizes corn flour up to 15 percent to be added to wheat flour. Decree specifies that corn flour is to be free from insect and fungus infection. (Decree-Law No. 102, Jan. 19)

SUBSTITUTES FOR FOREIGN ESSENCES promised from Haiti. New government development company experimenting with lemon grass, source of citral for synthetic violet scent, used mainly in cheap soaps. Mimosa, jasmine, tuberose and the ylang-ylang tree can also be grown. It takes about 2 years to get essential oils from the tuberose, 3 years for jasmine, at least 4 years for ylang-ylang. (Time Magazine, February 16)

MEXICAN GOVERNMENT URGED TO CONTROL RAYON SALES in order to prevent American rayon from falling into hands of those who would use fiber for purely speculative purposes. Supply of Italian and Japanese rayon fast being exhausted and fiber from U.S. imperative to prevent closing of all rayon mills. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

SECOND INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF AGRICULTURE will be July 6 to 16 in Mexico City, according to J. L. Colom, Chief of Division of Agricultural Cooperation, Pan American Union. Mr. Colom has just returned from Mexico where he helped plan conference program.

IMPORTATION OF U.S. COTTONSEED AUTHORIZED BY MEXICO. Permit for import of 300 tons of "Marvel of the South" cotton seed granted by Federal Government which expects seed will be of benefit to planters of the Laguna Region, Mexico's greatest white fiber belt. Distribution of 150 tons will be supervised by the National Common Public Lands Credit Bank which specializes in financing agrarians, and rest will be available to other Laguna planters. (N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

NICARAGUA'S GOLD EXPORTS FOR JANUARY WORTH \$750,000, largest on record, according to announcement of Colonel Irving A. Lindberg, who emphasizes that Nicaragua's good financial condition is due to exportation of gold and that failure of mines to receive materials from U.S. necessary for their operation would cause serious economic repercussions. (N.Y. Times)

OCCUPATION OF PRIVATE LANDS FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES decreed by President De La Guardia of Panama. Decree provides that occupation shall last only as long as the state of war continues. Owners of lands to be occupied will be notified and those who voluntarily offer it will be relieved of paying real estate taxes during occupation. (Report from U.S. Embassy, Panama)

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